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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1909.

# THE PRIMARY AND THE PLEDGE.

Chairman Ellyson completely disposes of the pretense that the failure to print the pledge on some of the ballots relieved any voter in the recent primary from his obligation to support the nominees. It was a pretense that was not particularly credible either to the intelligence or the integrity of the pretenders.

If those taking part in a primary were not bound by the result of that primary, then the whole performance would be a silly farce. No written or printed pledge could add force to the moral obligation. It did not create any obligation, nor could its absence impair the obligation which the act of voting imposed on the voter.

It amounted to no more than the notice usually sent out by banks reminding the drawer of a note of the day on which it falls due. The failure of the bank to send such a notice would not relieve the debtor of his obligation to pay. Still less would the failure to send these notices to some relieve other debtors of their obligations to pay.

In the face of even the preposterously remote possibility of a Republican victory, the conflicts within the Democratic party will be harmonized and its ranks closed up. Indeed, we hardly like to dignify with serious discussion the suggestion that Virginia will emphasize the apathy of the primary by going Republican this fall. Such an occurrence is inconceivable, and none but the unthinking or un-mindful can give it a moment's credence.

Political rainbow-chasers will doubtless rise up from time to time to prophesy smooth things to uninformed Republicans from the North. The memories of 1853 are, not lost, however, and the history of North Carolina's return to Republicanism is a political landmark that cannot be ignored.

The simple truth is that the Republican party cannot even plead harmlessness in Virginia, since for twenty years it has been powerless, and Virginia is in no mood to renew the experiences of what Republican power could accomplish.

# A FAIR TEST OF UNIVERSAL TRANSFERS.

On Sunday morning the long-desired universal transfers will be issued to the people of Richmond. The citizen who wants to hurry to lower Main Street will no longer have to study the signs on the street cars to see whether his blue transfer is matched by the car. The resident of Glinter Park will not wait for a half-dozen blue cars to roll by First and Broad while he waits for his desired Laurel Street car. Either man can take the first car coming in the right direction and can hasten to his destination without delay.

The universal transfers are awarded by an experiment. The company declares it will issue these transfers in a fair effort to see whether it can afford them. If it finds that the drain upon its revenue is too heavy under the new system, the company will return to the old red and blue plan and will fight the question in the courts. The issue of the litigation on this point is doubtful, and it may develop that the company cannot be compelled, under its double franchise, to issue universal transfer.

Under these circumstances, the convenience of the people of Richmond demands that the experiment be successful. And successful it will be, if the universal transfers are not abused. There will be really no greater loss to the company by issuing universal transfer than by issuing the present ones, except for the fact that the opportunities for "doubling back" will be multiplied twofold. Where there were, let us say, four lines on which a man could transfer back towards his starting point, there will now be eight. The loss here may be sufficient to ruin the entire system of transfers.

This fact puts the matter before the people. If we wish universal transfers, we can have them by using them for legitimate changes towards our destination. If we do not so use them, we can secure them only after a legal fight, if at all.

The reorganized company has shown a commendable desire to please the people. The people should meet the company halfway, and should support an honest experiment for public convenience.

# STRAW IS THE REPUBLICAN WIND.

Straws are beginning to show the course of the Republican wind. Mr. Taft's change of program, so as to avoid stopping at Mr. La Follette's home town, is one of these straws. Mr. Cummins' published interview from Chicago is another.

Of course, Mr. Taft has visited

Madison, Wis., twice and, in his hurried swing around the continent, he could not afford to stop there again, especially when Milwaukee was urgent in its invitation to him. Of course no slight to Mr. La Follette was conveyed in this minor change of plan. But Mr. Taft's attitude towards the regulars of his party during the last few days makes it altogether probable that he will no more forget the insurgents than will Speaker Cannon. The people will see in Mr. Taft's slight of La Follette's home town the first intimation of his probable attitude.

In the same manner Senator Cummins' interview in Chicago leaves no doubt of impression on the public mind. He expresses outward confidence that President Taft will lend some support to the insurgent movement, but he distinctly qualifies his statement by saying that he will assume Taft is with the insurgents, "at least until the presidential policy demonstrates the contrary." This is neatly put, but its meaning cannot be mistaken when the rest of Cummins' speech is considered.

The Iowa Senator declared, without equivocation, that the progressive Republicans aim at "placing in control of organized Republicanism men who will stand absolutely by party pledges." This is a practical declaration of war, and, if carried out in the manner proposed by Senator Cummins, it will mean war within the Republican party.

The progress of this insurgent movement during the next few months will be one of the surest indications of the manner in which the people regard the new tariff. No elections will take place, by which the regulars may be ousted for office, before November, 1910; but, in the meantime, the progressives can appeal to the people in other ways. If they gain supporters within the Republican party, and if they are approved by their own States, the significance of their victories will be unmistakable. They become the thermometer to register public indignation.

**REAL SUCCESS FOR THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.**  
 The results of the Charlottesville Farmers' Institute will be realized, not in this year's crop, but in next year's planting. If the farmers are really benefited by the lectures and discussion, they will go home prepared to put practical suggestions into actual achievement and will begin next year's work with new ideas and improved methods.

Co-operation and individual effort are the keys to Virginia's pre-eminence as an agricultural State. As soon as the farmers realize that their problems are the same and that their interests are one, they can achieve success beyond their fondest hopes. Not until these facts are fully appreciated can they ever wield potential influence in the State.

In this connection the opening speech of President Westmoreland Davis should be carefully studied by every farmer. With rare foresight, Mr. Davis outlines the problems before the farmers of the State and points out the means to be employed in solving them. His analysis should be the slogan of progressive farmers—better roads, better transportation rates, better stock-breeding, and better farming methods. If these issues are consistently followed by the farmers of the State, and are urged by them as a whole, Virginia will be transformed in five years. But if co-operation is lacking, the work of individuals will be in vain.

At the same time, the individual labor of every farmer is essential to real farming progress. A few model farms do not make up a great agricultural State, and a few progressive farmers cannot by their own efforts reach the desired goal. If every man now in attendance upon the Institute will take to heart the lessons learned, and will apply on his own farm the methods explained at the Institute, more can be accomplished for agricultural advance than could be gained from volumes of liberal legislation.

The future of Virginia agriculture is full of promise. But that promise can never be fully realized until the farmers co-operate thoroughly, while each man works wisely on his own farm.

# BULLIED AGAIN.

The papers make the announcement that China will now permit Japan to have her way "in the matter of widening the gauge and proceeding with the construction of the Antung-Mukden Railway." This is, of course, very kind of China. It is not quite clear, however, how she could have prevented Japan from "having her way," since in the matter Japan is strenuously supported by England. As usual, China is the victim. Her rights never have been respected, and never will be until she arms herself and so becomes able to give to her rights the sanction of force.

Potentially the most powerful, she is actually the most helpless of great nations; hence she is alternately the victim of all. Japan has followed the example of the Christian nations and is the latest candidate for China's enforced favors. The victim may, as in the case of Antung-Mukden Railway, object, protest, vow she'll never consent, but will always end by consenting. With some ten times the resources of Japan, she has not one-tenth of Japan's military strength; so she has no choice but to cringe at the feet of the spoiler.

The fate of poor, plundered China is an edifying commentary on the peace propaganda, the urgings of Mr. Carnegie and the other peace advocates that Christian nations disarm and trust for the preservation of their safety and the defense of their rights to the philosophic moderation of that

# THE TIMES-DISPATCH: RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1909.

## Borrowed Jingles.

**THE UMPIRE.**  
 A fool there was, who began to swear  
 (Even as you or I)  
 At a shirt-tail shoe and a lock of hair  
 (We called him the umpire who wasn't fair)  
 But when he called him names for fair  
 (Even as you or I)  
 Oh, the balls we stop and the flies we pop  
 (We called him the umpire who wasn't fair)  
 That are spoiled by the umpire who knows  
 (And he knows that he knew too much)  
 For we had to give him (B)!

A fool there was, and a ball he fouled  
 (Even as you or I)  
 The umpire called "fair" and the audience howled  
 (But the umpire only glared and scowled)  
 While the batter deeply and fiercely growled  
 (The latter as you or I)  
 Oh, the wrath unspoken, and the swears we choke  
 (And the excellent epithets)  
 That belong to the umpire who knows it all  
 (That fool of an umpire who knows it all)  
 And all of our game upsets!

The umpire with haughty pride was filled  
 (Even as you or I)  
 But that wasn't what the audience yelled  
 (The loudly demanded his blood be spilled)  
 So some of him lived—but he mostly was killed  
 (Even as you or I)  
 And it isn't the chump and it isn't the pump  
 (That makes us so awful mad)  
 It's coming to know that he never can ump  
 (For head is only a sudden lump)  
 And his judgment's always bad!  
 —Carolyn Lewis in Harper's Weekly.

## MERELY JOKING.

**Pool in Hard Luck.**  
 "Ah, brother, these be barren days for us who court the muse."  
 "Pshaw! I've just been forced to accept a position scanning meters for the gas company."—Life.

**The Same Thing.**  
 Mrs. Church: "You say you was a war correspondent?"  
 Mrs. Gothard: "Yes, she was secretary of a woman's club."—Yonkers Statesman.

**Moulding a Future.**  
 "What kind of a career have you mapped out for your boy Joseph?"  
 "I'm going to make him a lawyer of him."  
 "And what if he doesn't want to?"  
 "I'll make him a lawyer of him."—Gettysburg Times.

**Unhappy Duty.**  
 "The alleged swallowed him."  
 "An' did they kill the motor?"  
 "No; they thought that swallow him 'twould be punishment enough!"—Atlanta Constitution.

**Feeling Blue.**  
 "On what grounds did Hank get gray?"  
 "True; but after the war was over he felt blue."—New York Evening Telegram.

## MENTIONED IN PASSING.

**Albany** has framed a prohibition law so drastic that it could be well be known as without designating possession of a liquor-scented breath as a capital offense.—Philadelphia Ledger.

We stubbornly cling to the opinion that the gentleman who inserted the "joker" in the tariff bill—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon isn't going to retire, won't he oblige a long-suffering public by removing the cigar from his lips the next time he has his picture taken?—Baltimore News.

Medium doing a sentence stint in Upper Swampscott, Mass., was overcome by the heat. Hope this is no indication of the ability of the spirit—New York Evening Telegram.

If Mr. Roosevelt is elected President again, we shudder to think of the outlay of African big chiefs that will come afoot in Washington.—Washington Herald.

## THE BRINDLE UNIFORM.

**Soldiers' Garb is Continually Being Changed by the Government.**  
 Sentiment needs to be milder, and plastic if it would throw tendrils of affection about the army uniform. Barely has the eye become used to one color, and tenderness begun to love it, when the military authorities announce a change. A short time ago the historic blue was discarded because it afforded too easy a target, and indistinguishable khaki substituted. Now khaki is to go, and in its place there is to be an olive-drab or brindle color. Practically has its claims, and given time, feeling is able to adjust itself to any color. But it may fairly be asked of our military managers that they make up their minds as to what hue is best, and then keep it made up. It's hardly wise to change uniform fashions as rapidly as Paris changes other fashions. The clothes of a soldier are a symbol, and a symbol, to be of service, must have some persistency. It was hardly the proper custom to putting "blue" into their verses, to begin suddenly to sing of "khaki"; it will be even more difficult for them to adjust their metres to "olive-drab," and "brindle" has unfortunately been introduced into the lyrics.

So far, however, the flag has been let alone, although it is susceptible of demonstration that its flowing red and spotless white can be seen further than some dirty looking coat and breeches. In some respects his book on the subject was a revelation to the average modern layman, who is an enthusiastic advocate of sunshine, and generally puts it in the same category with fresh air and good music. In some respects his book on the subject was a revelation to the average modern layman, who is an enthusiastic advocate of sunshine, and generally puts it in the same category with fresh air and good music.

## WEATHER VERSUS CLOTHES.

**Hot Days a Struggle Between Comfort and Convention.**  
 The discipline of a writer may find in such a day as yesterday his most instructive hour, though it is not the hour most flattering to his pride. For on such a day, as at no other time, he is forced to confront the tyrannical struggle with the tyranny of clothes, temporarily at advantage. The worker suffers or dares, according to his work and his surroundings. If he dares, he struts far beyond the limit of his station, and then keep it made up. It's hardly wise to change uniform fashions as rapidly as Paris changes other fashions. The clothes of a soldier are a symbol, and a symbol, to be of service, must have some persistency. It was hardly the proper custom to putting "blue" into their verses, to begin suddenly to sing of "khaki"; it will be even more difficult for them to adjust their metres to "olive-drab," and "brindle" has unfortunately been introduced into the lyrics.

# The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

**English Banks to Control Finance of Russia.**  
 NEXT to China there is no such great market in the world for foreign trade as the immense Russian empire. The English government has long been endeavoring to establish a commercial alliance with Russia, contracted eighteen months ago, is not only political, but also economic. While the Czar enjoyed himself like a boy, entirely free from care, sailing on board the "Briarcliff" (King Edward's yacht), the British government, through the hands of the ministers whom he had brought in his train were busily engaged in concluding with the President of the State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Charles Hardinge and other English statesmen, and also with English financiers, who had been invited to London, a treaty which, in the event of its being concluded, would have placed in the hands of the English government, through the hands of the ministers whom he had brought in his train were busily engaged in concluding with the President of the State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Charles Hardinge and other English statesmen, and also with English financiers, who had been invited to London, a treaty which, in the event of its being concluded, would have placed in the hands of the English government, through the hands of the ministers whom he had 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